

United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service Aviation Safety Alert

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Subject: SA 315B Lama Stand Down

Area of Concern: Helicopter Operations

Distribution: All Aviation and Fire Personnel

Discussion: Investigation of the SA 315B Lama accident in Colorado is underway, however there is no conclusive information available to the Forest Service at this time. Some contractors have requested down time for inspection of their aircraft, and those have been granted by the controlling Forests.

This letter is to recommend that Regions who have this make/model of helicopter working on fires and projects provide a 24-hour period of relief from contract availability. The purpose of this safety stand down is to allow time for an additional, thorough maintenance inspection with emphasis on the engine, transmission, and drive train areas.

Regions may implement the safety inspection period while continuing availability payment, and begin or end it at their discretion upon receipt of this notice.

/s/ Ron Hanks

National Aviation Safety and Training Manager